(c) the details of the efforts made/being made by the Central Government for the revival of sick small scale industrial units in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Banks do not give direct financial aid to sick small scale industries.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines to banks for detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. RBI has also given broad parameters for grant of relief and concessions for revival of potentially viable sick SSI units such as interest on Working Capital and Working Capital Term Loan may be charged at 1.5% below the prevailing fixed/prime lending rate and concessions upto 2% (not more than 3% in the case of tiny/decentralized sector units) below the document rate on Term Loan may be given. Apart from this, Banks have been given freedom for extension of relief/concession even beyond the parameters, in cases where it is considered absolutely necessary. Besids above, the Debt Restructuring Mechanism and One Time Settlement Scheme have also been formulated.

Decline in deposits in Public Provident Fund

3239. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deposits in the Public Provident Fund accounts in the national capital have shown a decline during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the actual deposits in the Fund for the fiscal as compared to those for the earlier two years *i.e.* 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether, in view fo the above position, Government propose to increase the limit of maximum deposit under the Fund from the existing Rs. 70,000 to one lakh; and

(d) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The gross collections in Post Offices under the Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme in the

National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi were Rs. 330 crore in 2003-04 and Rs. 490 crore in 2004-05. The gross collections in Post Offices in NCT, Delhi under PPF in 2005-06, upto the month of February, 2006 were Rs. 282 crore. The collections during the corresponding period in 2004-05 (*i.e.* upto February, 2005) were Rs. 257 crore. Therefore, there is no decline in the gross collections.

At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the deposit ceiling under PPF from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

Guidelines of new pension schemes

3240. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed guidelines and modalities of the new pension scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees on *ad hoc/* leave vacancies who have been regularized after 2004 get pay benefits from previous date of their appointment whereas they are denied other benefits available to regular employees from that date;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria followed for such employees in the matter of choice of pension schemes; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the anomalies in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Functions of PFRDA

3241. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority was proposed to be set up last year; and